sed introduction of delivered supplies of SKO to wholesalers and blue dyeing of SKO distributed through PDS in the entire country. Some State Governments are yet to finalise the revised rates of transportation etc., for implementing the delivered supplies of SKO. Recommendations at (iv) above and the suggestion regarding targetting the PDS were made by the Committee of Ministers set up by the Advisory Council on PDS in their "Report on the National Policy on PDS". Central Government has so far not taken any decision on these issues. No specific time frame can be indicated for these decisions. Central Government has already decided to implement the Assured Employment Programme in all the Blocks covered under the RPDS.

Black marketing of kerosene Oil in the Country

6222. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA; Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTON be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4255 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th April 1994 and state:

(a) how many cases of black marketing of kerosene oil were detected in the country during the last two years with State-wise details thereof;

(b) what actions were taken against the black marketeers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 425 for 25th April, 1994. Relates to import of Palm Oil. It seems that the reference is to Rajya Sabha Question No. 4251 for 25th April, 1994.

(a) The Government of India does not maintain commodity-wise details.

(b) State Government/U.T. Administrations have been taking action against persons indulging in hoarding, black-marketing and other malpractices in respect of all essential commodities including kerosene oil under various Control Orders issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and similar relevant legislations. The persons found guilty of violations of orders issued under the E.C. Act, 1955 are liable to punishments prescribed under the Act with a mandatory terms of imprisonment, apart from cancellation of licence, suspension of operation of kerosene oil Depot and forfeiture of securities for violation of terms and conditions of the licence.

Cheaper rates of rice and wheat in open market than PDS

6223. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that wheat and rice are available in the open market at cheaper rates than the rates of these commodities in PDS;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and its impact on the PDS system; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) As a result of the good harvest, the open market prices of rice and wheat are reported to be marginally lower than the Central Issue Prices of these grains for the Public Distribution System (PDS) at certain centres as on 4.5.94. As the season advances open market prices, generally, would tend to increase. While offtake through the PDS might go down slightly during the post-harvest months in some areas having surplus production it is not likely to have any permanent or adverse Impact on the PDS during the coming year.